

□ 1530

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the conference report on H.R. 2491, just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 440) "An Act to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for the designation of the National Highway System, and for other purposes."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2606, PROHIBITION ON FUNDS FOR BOSNIA DEPLOYMENT

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 273 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 273

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2606) to prohibit the use of funds appropriated to the Department of Defense from being used for the deployment on the ground of United States Armed Forces in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of any peacekeeping operation, or as part of any implementation force, unless funds for such deployment are specifically appropriated by law. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, which shall be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on National Security; (2) one motion to amend by the minority leader or his designee, which shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit, which may include instructions only if offered by the minority leader or his designee.

SEC. 2. Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution, if the minority leader or his designee announces that an amendment will not be offered, there shall be an additional period of one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on National Security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield 30 min-

utes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HALL], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of the resolution, all time yielded is for debate purposes only.

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 273 is a modified closed rule providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 2606, a bill prohibiting the use of funds to deploy United States ground troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina unless specifically appropriated by law.

The rule provides for consideration of the bill in the House, instead of the Committee of the Whole, without intervening point of order. The previous question is considered as ordered on the passage of the bill without intervening motion except as follows:

First, 1 hour of debate is provided, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on National Security.

Second, one minority substitute is allowed if offered by the minority leader or his designee—debatable for 1 hour; and

Third, one motion to recommit is permitted which, if containing instructions, may only be offered by the minority leader or his designee.

Finally, the rule provides that if the minority substitute is not offered, there shall be an additional hour of debate on the bill, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the National Security Committee.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude this procedural discussion of the rule by thanking the ranking minority member, Mr. MOAKLEY, for suggesting the option of an additional hour of debate if the minority chooses not to offer a substitute.

I thought, as did my majority committee colleagues, that this was an excellent idea because it will allow this House to have the kind of serious debate that this issue deserves, regardless of whether there is any alternative proposal from the minority side.

Moreover, I would point out that the right of the minority to offer a further amendment in the motion to recommit with instructions is still preserved by this rule. That would be debatable for the usual 10 minutes.

On the bill itself, Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my complete support for Mr. HEFLEY's responsible attempt to induce the President of the United States to consult Congress before he sends American ground troops into Bosnia.

Let me be clear: this legislation does not bar the President from sending troops to Bosnia. What it does is assert the constitutional prerogative of the Congress when it comes to the power of the purse.

This legislation requires the President to come to Congress, make his

case for the mission, and gain favorable approval of the appropriation of funds for the mission.

Mr. Speaker, this is not only constitutional, but it is wise policy.

We need more debate here in Congress on the vital issue of Bosnia, because once again, (as has been the case several times since this administration took over) we stand on the verge of putting our young men and women in harm's way in a civil war where America has no vital national interest.

Mr. Speaker, American soldiers should only be deployed to zones of conflict when and if vital American national interests are at stake.

Mr. Speaker, American foreign policy has always been to come to the defense of sovereign democratic allies that came under external military attack. Bosnia does not meet this test.

Despite instigation and support from Serbia & Russia, the Bosnian tragedy is essentially a civil conflict.

And Members of this House, we should not get directly involved in a civil conflict—especially one that is so complicated and ancient as the one in Bosnia—and which occurs in a place where America has no vital interests such as oil supply lines or shipping lanes.

As heart-wrenching as this tragedy has been, and as despicable as the Serb aggression and tactics have been, this conflict does not justify the loss of American lives, not even one.

It is certainly not something I can justify to my constituents, who have sons and daughters that may not come home.

Mr. Speaker, the answer to this conflict today, is the same as it has always been: to lift the arms embargo, and let the Bosnian victims defend themselves against the Serb aggression.

The problem since 1991 has been a military imbalance of power in favor of the Serbs.

Mr. Speaker, the arms embargo froze the balance in favor of the aggressor.

This was a strategic and moral blunder.

Only when the Serbs are confronted by an equally capable armed force will they negotiate in good faith. Then, the Bosnians, Serbs, and Croats will work out their own deal.

And in fact, both the Bosnians and the Croats have proved of late that this is the correct strategy.

Both Bosnia and Croatia have recently scored impressive gains on the ground, made possible by weapons they have received through holes in the embargo, when we looked the other way, proving that they can take care of themselves, if we let them.

But what does the President want to do? Rather than following this scenario to its logical conclusion, and enabling the Bosnians to score even more gains, this administration now seeks to rein in the Bosnians, lock in the current status quo, which still favors the Serbs, and send young Americans to enforce an unjust and inherently unstable "peace."